

ARA/PPC 10/28  
1130 3134PGrenada Quotes File

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From Jamaican Prime Minister Seaga's speech before the Jamaican Parliament on 25 October 1983.

"In the states in the Eastern Caribbean there is at this moment not only a strong revulsion against the recent atrocities in Grenada, which we share, but also overwhelming anxiety -- indeed fear -- for their own security.

"The people of Grenada can be assured that this action in which we have joined today is intended to free them from being pawns in a power play which had converted their lovely spice island to a fearsome camp. From this action we hope they will derive a new freedom and a new opportunity to build a new future."

It may be felt that these matters do not concern us; but most certainly they do. If a whole government can be wiped out overnight either by political or military extremists and the governments of the Caribbean remain silent and passive, then no government elected by the people can be safe....If we ignore the occurrence of brutal military takeovers or political overthrows of governments, we would immediately give heart to every subversive group within the region to engineer disorder and instability as a means of overthrow. No democratic system of government would be safe.

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From a speech delivered by Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica and Chairperson of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. Delivered on 25 October 1983 at a press conference with President Reagan.

"And we think this is the reason why he himself and his Cabinet were destroyed. . . But that these men, who for all these years accepted the Bishop regime should then -- for their own reasons, and I think the power hungry reasons -- decide to destroy the persons whom they had accepted as their leaders for so long, made us realize that this sort of assassination must not continue in our country. It means that our people are not safe. It means

that Grenadians had never been given the chance to choose for themselves the type of country they want. And, therefore, it is necessary for us to see to it that they have the opportunity to do so."

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From an editorial in the Bridgetown Advocate, 26 October 1983.

"It had to be done. There was no way that the small nations of the Eastern Caribbean in particular could hope to rest comfortably after events took an unexpectedly brutal turn in Grenada over the past few days unless action was taken against the ruthless military regime there.

"There is an old West Indian saying that when a neighbor's house starts to burn it is wise to try and put the fire out since it might spread and burn yours as well. The military fire of Austin and his group had to be put out in Grenada. They were well armed for a start and there was no doubt that there was an unusual streak of ruthlessness about how they had been operating to seize power.

"If we are really serious about the concept of sovereignty what has been done has given the Grenadians a real chance to recapture their true sovereignty as a people. For too long a time these people have had a system of brutality in their administration. Gairy had his 'Mongoose Gang;' Bishop sought safety in armed strength provided by sympathetic ideologues, only to become the victim of his well-armed friends. The masses could not save him.

"We are still a people of conscience. This is not the time for us to allow our detractors to weaken our resolve."

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From a speech given by Charles Fleming, Counselor for the Permanent Mission of St. Lucia to the OAS, 26 October 1983.

"There is an attempt by some states members of this organization [the Organization of American States] to present this pre-emptive defensive action as a measure initiated by the United States. This is a cheap attempt to galvanize international opinion against the United States, and to wrongly influence American public opinion. Saint Lucia wishes to make it quite clear that this action

was not first suggested, or initiated, by the United States. But, the United States is guilty. Guilty of responding positively to a formal request for assistance from some of the Eastern Caribbean states who wish only to maintain their security, and protect their people from the totalitarian grip which seeks to place a stranglehold on the Caribbean."

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Comments by Carlos Rangel, a noted Venezuelan intellectual.

The move to help Grenada was, "just, opportune and correct." He termed the military regime in St. Georges, "Bloody assassins, who were vassals of Cuba and the soviet Union."

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From a radio and television address delivered by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams on October 26 1983.

"There has seldom been in these islands such virtually unanimous support in the media and at political and popular levels for such an action so potentially divisive. West indians have shown that we have a view of our future that is democratic, peaceloving, devoted to constitutional and not arbitrary government."

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Text of a letter sent to President Ronald Reagan 10/27.

"We the students of St Georges University School of Medicine at Kingstown Medical College, St. Vincent, would like to express our appreciation of your concern for the safety of our fellow students in Grenada....Having spent the past two years in Grenada and being in almost daily contact with American students there during the recent unrest, we support your decision..." Signed by 65 students.

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From an editorial in Bogota, Colombia's leading daily, El Tiempo. 27 October 1983.

"Fidel Castro said that in Grenada there were 600 Cubans who were simple doctors, construction workers, and teachers. And now it turns out that these 'doctors, construction workers, and teachers' have been fighting

cheek to jowl for two days with an entire naval flotilla from the most powerful nation in the world. That is to say, it wasn't a quiet, peaceful, good will group that was involved, but a group armed to the teeth, capable of direct combat in a direct and efficient manner....Now Fidel orders the Cubans dug in on the island to resist until the end, by which he virtually admits that they had already invaded the island by other means and that now they refuse to allow themselves to be pushed away."

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From the Brazilian daily O Estado de Sao Paulo, 27 October 1983, regarding Suriname's expulsion of the Cuban Ambassador.

"The U.S. reaction to what had been happening in Grenada naturally created a favorable atmosphere for the Surinamese chief-of-state to act in defense of his regime, trying to find alternatives to to his previously exclusive Cuban option....Bouterse's bold gesture means a grave challenge to Cuba, and Castro's personal humiliation."

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From an article in the Washington Post on 28 October 1983 written by Ed Cody.

"The Grenadians, glad to be outdoors -- and...eager to be friendly...thanked the marines for coming and sought to shake their hands."